

January 22, 2004
PAC Meeting
Siuslaw National Forest

Attendees: Barry Wulff, Steve Calish, Betty, Jean Keele, Denis Williamson, George Buckingham, Rosemary Furfey, Brendan White, Mike Smith, Dana Shuford, Michael Wilson, Alan Henning, Dick Powell, Ron Phillips, Rennie Ferris, Kim Gossen, Johnny Sundstrom, Stan Cook, John Zappel, Sharon Stewart, Jane Cottrell, Mike Harvey, Paul Meznerich, Michael Carrier, Gary Chapman, Tom Bucht, Mike Kennedy

Payments to Counties Update

George Buckingham: Siuslaw National Forest

Discussed Payments to counties, Summarize FY04 approved projects. The types of projects are noxious weed control, hazardous fuels, prescribed fire, trails infra structure, road maintenance/repair, asphalt, culvert replacement and riparian watershed. We have a total of 1427 (million) for FY04 approved projects

Denis Williamson: Salem BLM

Have similar projects for FY04. Final recommendations should be in to the BLM by mid April. The RAC will develop recommendations by June 17 and make a decision and finalize in August. ONC is trying to standardize agreements; it will be good to have them all in one place.

If you want a pre proposal let Denis know.

Steve Calish: Eugene BLM

The Lane County Forest Work camp, which has crews conduct work in the forest, has been extremely successful. Examples of work include fish passage enhancement, invasive plant inventories and treatments, road easements that enhance recreation and road sediments, campground facilities and trail work.

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Aquatic Conservation Strategy EIS – Joyce Casey

(Gave hand out)

Joyce presented an update on the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Supplemental EIS and the work that was done in making decisions from the 1994 decision.

We needed to clarify the language of aquatic conservation strategy, short-term flexibility to establish long-term affects that are good. Anytime you do a supplement with the NW Forest Plan you get lots of interest. By doing the EIS this involves the public and it is worthwhile in the long term.

If you have questions feel free to contact Joyce Casey

Jcasey01@fs.fed.us

(503) 808-2286

Corvallis to Coast Trails – Gary Chapman/Tom Bucht

Corvallis to Sea Trail slide presentation

The nonprofit group wants to build a trail from Corvallis to the coast using existing roads on federal, state and private land.

Suggestions Welcome!

Areas explored, interested persons, groups or businesses, methods used, others?

If you want more information contact:

Gary Chapman

chapman@proaxis.com

Tom Bucht

tbucht@gte.net

Sand Camping Environmental Assessment – Mike Harvey/Sharon Stewart/John Zapell

Presenters gave an update on the status of a Sand Camping Environmental Analysis to designate off-highway vehicle dispersed camping.

Mike and Sharon gave an update on off-highway vehicle and dispersed camping. The Siuslaw National Forest is hoping to get the sand camping policy implemented by May of 2004.

For more information visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw web site.

Sand Camping Follow-Up Questions

1. ***Did the alcohol ban work? Did it accomplish what it was set out to accomplish?***
(Sub-question: What does success look like? How do we measure it? How do we know when or how we've obtained it?)
2. ***Was it an expensive undertaking to pay employees to stay at the Dunes and educate visitors of the new alcohol policy?***
(Sub-question: Did the benefits justify the cost?)
3. ***Have we considered building OHV-accessible byways to connect other campgrounds to the Dunes?***
4. ***Are all campers self-contained with regard to potable water, toilets and garbage disposal? Will the developed campsites have these amenities?***
(Sub-comment: I'd prefer to raise the price from \$5 to \$7.50-\$10 in order to pay for these services to be present.)
5. ***Have affected counties signed ordinances mirroring the Forest Service alcohol policy, thereby allowing its law enforcement personnel to assist in enforcing the ban?***
6. ***Is there any way we can stop people from going into their trailers to have a "friendly" beer?***
7. ***Can the Forest Service expand the Dunes area to accommodate future growth in the sport?***

8. *How did the Forest Service arrive at the cost of \$5? It seems like the price should be higher.*
9. *How significant of a problem (as in lost capacity) will it be when campsites are occupied, but not to the full five-vehicle capacity?*
10. *What media/public outreach strategy is in place to educate OHV-using public about the new sand camping policy? Is anything being done to shape expectations to accurately reflect crowded riding conditions?*
11. *Who keeps the fees from the sand camping program? How are these fees spent?*
12. *Has the Siuslaw National Forest received any input/comments from OHV organizations? Have they been positive or negative?*
13. *How does the new sand camping policy impact the Siuslaw National Forest from a liability standpoint? Does it make the Forest more responsible or less responsible for injuries or deaths?*
14. *What is the South Zone? Is there a North Zone?*
15. *How was the decision made to go with an EA as opposed to an EIS?*
16. *What groups have been most oppositional to the policy change?*
17. *Are there any plover issues?*
18. *How many weekends each year are the Dunes at more than 50 percent visitor capacity?*
(Sub-question: Are the space allocations we designating a general average or is it just in response to three heavy weekends each year? Does it take into account future growth of the sport?)

Stewardship Contracting – George Buckingham

Provided a hand out

All stewardship projects will come under the public law.

George complemented the PAC members on the quality of comments they had made to help change the decisions that came back from the national level.

2003 Monitoring Trip Update – Brendan White

Provided hand outs

George congratulated Brendan for his exceptional service for putting the monitoring trip together. He was presented with a Coast PAC sweatshirt.

Slide presentation of the 2003-monitoring trip.

Two sales: BlueBird Thin – Waldport
Rottweiler Thin – Hebo Ranger District

It would be nice to take the time and thank everybody that was involved in the projects, from the planning stage to execution.

Task – based on the report to the PAC, we have consensus that the PAC group will be drafting a letter to send to all the folks involved. *Joni to write letter for PAC review.*

Suggestion: PAC needs to take some time before the next monitoring trip to look at the questions, so the PAC members are more educated. A meeting before the monitoring trip would be good to go over the questions and get more educated.

Monitoring trip dates: Paul recommendation for the 2004 monitoring trip, May 4,5,6 or 18, 19, 20.

It appears that May 4&5 would be the best date for the 2004 monitoring date for the PAC trip.

Between Al Brown and Brendan White suggestion – does the PAC want to take advantage of in house meeting time? April agenda item questions covering the monitoring trip.

2004 Agenda Items/Theme

1. BLM Plan Revision – resource mgmt has new process. PAC can assist with the scoping process.
2. FS/BLM Industry Settlement update, funding, impact.
3. Continue w/ discussion on stewardship. Projects and Process; report on stewardship retained receipts community and how it worked. Grant process under way.
4. Socio-Econ: identify ways of increasing significance in NWFP and recreation. Try to find different ways of supporting other economic pursuits.
5. Fire mgmt and how Healthy Forest Initiative addresses the SNF. Also address prvt lands forestry and payback from fire fighting funds. Ron Nielson with PNW. National and local concern for fire borrowing.

6. Assemble a Trails Sub-committee. (Ron Phillips puts into motion. Betty Jean interested) (Denis asks that the sub-comm. writes up goals and disseminate to the agencies so that they can see where they fit in and how they can coordinate efforts.) Committee can handle horse trails and Corvallis-Coast trail.
7. Studies showing relationship between riparian areas and fish recovery. Bob Reese,
8. Discussion of Coast Range history (Bob Zybec – guy with PhD who looked at Indian/catastrophic fire history on the Coast and lack of old growth). Want presentation from Zybec: Diversity of forest species development. (Dick Powell has contact) 2-hour presentation.
9. Four Threats to the NF: (1) unmanaged recreation (OHV use); (2) invasive species; (3) hazardous fuels; and (4) loss of open space.
10. Bosworth national proposal to streamline processes (NEPA and otherwise) and make USFS more efficient. PAC can provide input.
11. Payments to counties for Rural Communities Grant legislation. – PAC take actions on this; expires 2006; part of socio economic theme/topics/report on what's being done.
12. PAC to visit the issue of guaranteeing 5- to 10-yr guarantee of product (thinning). Possibly look for tie-in with stewardship rules.

April (April 15)	May (May 4-5)	July (July 22)	October (Oct. 14)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-monitoring info (w/ sub-committee: Alan Henning to work with Al Brown) • Coast Range history (Zybec talk) • Trails sub-committee update • Johnny update on stewardship monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS/BLM industry settlement update • BLM resource mgmt plan status report • Monitoring trip report/results • Socio-economic sub-committee update 	

Barry Wulff notes no Army Corps rep in current PAC.

Rennie: opportunity for spectacular ROI on stewardship. Doesn't think it's done. Looking for recollection of several different points. In the past, focus: water-related issues general theme. Anyone remember any specifics? Sidetracked with sudden issues, now lost track of past priorities and agenda.

Joni: Respond to Rennie – after consolidating issues, water issues presented itself as a theme.

Water supply also brought up in reference to Waldport area.

Rennie: Asks Joni to look through flip chart sheets to see if some topics, make new list of things not covered, then circulate. Then discuss whether to refocus attention on those untouched items.

Joni: I can't guarantee resurrecting the list, but will try. Last year chose theme of socio-economics. Can go theme or agenda topic approach.

Johnny: Inability of agency to guarantee supply of product. 1-yr. Supply guarantee doesn't work. How can we work with this issue to guarantee some sort of supply to 2009. To have some sort of dependability that some supply would be available.

GB: It's an age-old issue.

Johnny: Is there a 10-yr plan that we can take to the bank?

Basically, wants PAC to work on guarantee of a product.

Alan Henning: Stewardship rules last for 10 yrs. Maybe explore those two in conjunction.

Johnny: RFP for Stewardship grant up, so Stewardship Committee prepared accountability report for the \$200,000 it was appropriated.

Joni: People interested in working with Al Brown for pre-monitoring, contact Joni and work directly with Al (Sub-committee members: Alan Henning). Joni will e-mail PAC members who weren't in attendance at today's meeting.

Mtg. Dates:

- April 15
- July 22
- Oct. 14

Pre-monitoring Trip:

- May 4-5

Round-Robin:

Denis (BLM) – Key mgmt/leadership positions will be filled soon (associate state director, Roseburg district mgr, Burns district mgr, deputy state director of resource protection).

Rennie – Lincoln Co economically depressed. SWCD secured grants for riparian restoration and knott weed control.

Ron – Yaquina Bay property owners (5) with ATV trespass problems solved problems by forming an ATV club, which opened up riding areas and grants for staging areas. 110 machines going on at once. The club picks up trash and does work needed by ODPR. Demonstrates a win-win situation.

Barry Wulff – Worked on Marys Peak Tie Trail, shored up with rocks in Sept. June 6 we will be back up working on North Ridge Trail that's being broken down by mountain bikers. Collected trash along Marys Peak Road right before road closed. Mulky Creek Trail: cleared that trail for the county from downed trees. Doing a lot of work right now with the county.

George Buckingham - Handout (1): Rainfall data since 1961. A lot of public interest in rainfall graphs. Handout (2): Fish trap monitoring fish on the South Fork of Schooner Creek since 1987 (coho, steelhead and Chinook). Plan to collect smolt data for future comparisons. Unique data for fishery-free tributary.

George also listed priority projects (1) HFI projects a priority in R6; (2) NWFP projects (settlement agreement, renewed work on survey and mg); (3) invasive species – collaborative efforts; (4) aquatics and watershed restoration; (5) need to update grazing allotments; (6) access and travel mgmt planning (OHV use) for roads and recreation.

Johnny - asks for use of roads and firefighting access.

Dick Powell – Stated he liked his job and disliked the paperwork and processes that bogged down government decision-making and implementation.

Betty Jean – Declined to comment because of time constraints and because the majority of trail projects she has been involved with has been outside of this district.

Brandon – April marks end of first 10 years of Forest Plan. Will start counting species at that point. Issue disturbance-only biological opinion. Counter-part regs: A nat'l effort to provide for own determination of no effects for fire mgmt projects. Needs to develop ACA – USFS has one done, but hasn't been made public yet. Can provide 5-yr review of spotted owl and murrelet.

Johnny – Siuslaw Institute had contract of stewardship project. Now doing case study of the process. Will be available soon. Developed economic assessment of Siuslaw Basin: past studies, emergency services, recreation, thinning, high-value added, recommendations for the stewardship fund and sponsorship (5 pages of recommendations). Did it on a \$23,000 contract, but being protested, but not worried

about it. The stewardship pilot has been a success regardless of what anyone could hear. Important to allow to f(x) b/c it's working.

Mike – Tribe consulting with FWS and NOAA Fisheries for rest of activities through 2010. Will analyze lowering Tribes' rotation age (currently at 80 yr cycle). Might lower rotation age (maybe 60-yr rotation). Keeping person rainfall data and notes similar trends as recorded by Hebo data.

Dick - recommends seeing state climatologist for more data on rainfall.

Joni for Mike Courier – Bill Gregory new commissioner to ODPR app'tment from Gov. Kulongoski. Ocean Shores Mgmt Plan starting. Jan. 27-first week of Feb. Willamette grnwy 30-year old plan. Reflect changes and charge future plan. New State Park in WA county – all on ODPR Web site: oregonstateparks.org.

Joni – Continue Coast/Valley meeting rotation.